Dowagiac runs past Marshall

Page B1

Stay Safe

Be mindful of your surroundings, especially in unfamiliar or dimly lit areas. Trust your instincts - if something feels off, move to a safer location if possible. Encourage neighbors to establish a neighborhood watch program to keep our communities safe.

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Crime Prevention Unit
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St. Joseph, MI 49085
(269) 983-7141 Ext. 7221
www.bcsheriff.org

Sheriff, Chuck Heit

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Today's
The Herald-Palladium
included inside

Niles Star

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Nursing school coming to Stark Elementary building

By DEBRA HAIGHT
For Leader Publications

BUCHANAN — Dr. Ayanna Redding has a strong passion for helping others. That passion led her to first become a nurse and then an educator. Now, it is leading her to open a second location of her nursing and health sciences school.

Redding announced this summer that she was buying the former Stark Elementary School building in Buchanan to house her health professions educational facility. She is currently in the process of renovating the building with the goal of having a ribbon cutting ceremony in November and hosting classes starting in January.

Redding is the Director of Education for ALR Educational Health Services. ALR has been holding classes the last few years in downtown Niles in a former dentist office on East Main Street. That location will remain open even as she expands to Buchanan.

Redding grew up in Elkhart and said she originally wanted to be a mortician.

"My mom loved nursing and I tried it and loved it," she said. "I spent 10 years as a nurse and then I was bit by the teaching bug and decided to start my own school."

She started ALR in 2013 in Florida and moved back to this area a few years ago.

"I started it as a certified nursing assistant school," she said. "Then my faculty and students asked me to expand."

Besides the certified nursing assistant classes, ALR initially offered first aid and CPR as well before expanding to other classes for practical nursing, phlebotomy, certified clinical medical assistant and home health aides. She plans to continue to offer CPR and first aid classes for those in the health professions and for the community.

See **REDDING**, page A4

Photo provided

Dr. Ayanna Redding of ALR Educational Health Services is working to open her new nursing and health sciences school in the former Stark Elementary School building in Buchanan.

Don Campbell / HP staff

Rhiannon Cizon, who is the executive director of the Berrien County Historical Association in Berrien Springs, discusses what she went through in donating her kidney to a stranger.

A donor's decision

Cizon highlights her kidney transplant process, procedure

By LOUISE WREGE
Leader Publications

Q&A
RHIANNON CIZON

BERRIEN SPRINGS — Many people know Rhiannon Cizon as the executive director of the Berrien County Historical Association in Berrien Springs.

What they may not know is she donated a kidney in January to a stranger.

Cizon sat down recently with Herald-Palladium Staff Writer Louise Wrege to share her story.

Not many people donate a kidney to a stranger.

It's very interesting because when you start talking about giving a kidney, suddenly people who either are a recipient or who donated come out of the woodwork – like they don't ever talk about it until it comes up.

I was at Michaels in Benton Harbor. I was on the phone, ironically, with one of the promotion guys from Corewell (Health) about getting the story out there for Kidney Donation Month, which is in April. I'm on the phone with him and I was like – "I gave a kidney," and one of the girls was like – "I gave a kidney."

It's funny because I feel like people think that if you give a kidney or if you're a kidney recipient or an organ donor that everyone talks about it. But in reality, sometimes I forget that I've given a kidney. Then I see the scar and I'm like, "Oh yeah, that's right. I only have one kidney."

Obviously, if you're a recipient, it's a lot, lot different because you're conscientious of having that kidney. But once you give it's like – my kidney's out there. Have an adventure I would never have otherwise.

See **CIZON**, page A4

Niles City Council approves purchases for new equipment

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — New parts and equipment are on the way for the City of Niles' Public Works and Utilities Departments.

The Niles City Council approved spending approximately $597,500 to replace aging public works and utilities equipment during its meeting Monday at Niles Fire Department.

The equipment purchased by the city is as follows:

■ **A new John Deere 320P backhoe from AIS Construction Equipment of Grand Rapids for $157,993**

The Street Division has a 1997 John Deere 310E backhoe that is reaching the end of its useful life. The City of Niles DPW is a member of MiDeal (State Purchasing Program). As a member, the City of Niles benefits from the low bids received by the State of Michigan for many types of equipment and materials. A new John Deere 320P backhoe is listed with MiDeal for $150,950.00, with the addition of pre-delivery inspection, delivery, 36-month powertrain hydraulic warranty and a hydraulic thumb.

When any excavation is required this machine is solely relied on to get the job done. Aside from excavation, this machine is used during storm clean-up, to load/unload material from trucks, pick-up and place heavy objects, and many more key tasks that the Street Division is responsible for.

■ **One S76 T4 Bobcat skid steer from Bobcat of Michiana (Niles) for $57,132.14**

The Street Division has a 1998 Bobcat Melroe 873C Skid Steer that is reaching the end of its useful life. The skid steer was transferred from the Utility Division to the Street Division in 2019. According to council documents, the City of Niles DPW is a member of Sourcewell (Cooperative Purchasing Program). As a member, the city benefits from the low bids received by Sourcewell for many types of equipment and materials. A new S76 T4 Bobcat Skid Steer is listed with Sourcewell for $47,210.80, with the addition of pre-delivery inspection, delivery, useful needed features and tariff surcharges for a total of $57,132.14.

The skid steer is used for many different tasks due to its versatility with the number of attachments, which includes a grapple, forks, broom, and a front bucket.

See **EQUIPMENT**, page A5

Hundreds attend SMC College Fair

By JOHN EBY
Southwestern Michigan College

DOWAGIAC — More than 500 students attended Sept. 24's Southwestern Michigan College Fair in the Charles O. Zollar Building, encompassing 1st Source Bank Fieldhouse and the Student Activity Center.

Representatives from 46 colleges and universities were available to visitors from 10 a.m. to noon.

High school students could talk to representatives from a wide variety of colleges and universities in one convenient location to get answers to questions about admissions, programs and financial aid.

Schools in attendance included Brandywine Junior/Senior High School, Buchanan High School, Cassopolis High School, Career Academy South Bend, Coloma High School, Covert High School, Hartford High School, Kalamazoo Phoenix High School, Michigan Lutheran High School, Niles High School, River Valley High School, Three Rivers High School, Volinia Outcomes and Watervliet High School.

Last year the College Fair became a daytime event after years in the evening. About 350 attended in 2024.

Senior Admissions Counselor/Event Coordinator Allyson Harris called it a "successful day. Not only do students have the opportunity to get all their questions answered in one place, but they get to do so on a college campus. It was many students' first time on our beautiful campus."

See **COLLEGE FAIR**, page A5

Photo provided

More than 500 students attended Wednesday's Southwestern Michigan College Fair in the Charles O. Zollar Building.

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Today's obituaries • Page A3

Roxane Casteel, Steven Robinson, Gary Gitchell, Nathan Osban, Connie Ellerbrook, Ola Hayse, Deborah Forrest, Patrick Vicini, Gary Gitchell, James Boatright Sr.

Inside today's Herald-Palladium

Automotive	C6	Focus	B1	Opinion	B6
Business	C4	Food	B7	Puzzles	B4
Comics	B5	Home & Garden	C7	Television	D3

FRANKLY

Tips and quips

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip or a quip? Call Frankly at 269-687-7702 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com.

■ I think everyone should take the time to read the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

■ ABC and CBS made a mistake. They have played into corporate greed by allowing the FCC to overstep it's bounds. Murrow, Reynolds, Wallace, Cronkite and Walters would be ashamed.

■ The FCC is way out of line. Threatening to pull the ABC license is simply wrong.

■ The new ownership article failed to include information on the purchase price for this great change to $4! There was nothing sent out to subscribers as to when and how this cost change would affect the monthly subscription price.

■ I really don't care to know how criminal cases in Berrien County turn out...or how the sports teams of every school in Southwest Michigan are doing.

■ I ordered two double deluxe cheeseburgers, one chicken sandwich and one small coke from a local fast-food restaurant yesterday. It cost me $27! I thought prices were supposed to be going down.

■ Great leaders bring out the best in people, not the worst. Ask yourself which category you fit into.

■ 50 percent of the nation's children are on Medicaid. Now that is being cut along with food assistance and vaccine mandates. There is an attack on children in this once great country. Who voted for THIS?

■ Lots of moderates in this country are happy to see the wall secured at our southern border. However, there is concern about not having enough workers to replace those vacant jobs we now have, especially in the agriculture industry. What's next?

■ Coffee prices have more than doubled. Grocery prices are up 3.2 percent year over year. I thought prices were supposed to be lower under this new guy? Don't even get me started on home energy prices.

WEATHER

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 81. South wind around 5 mph becoming west in the afternoon.

Saturday Night: Clear, with a low around 56. Calm wind.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 81. Calm wind becoming northwest around 5 mph in the afternoon.

Sunday Night: Clear, with a low around 55.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 82.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 55.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 81.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 53.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 76.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 47.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 74.

Edwardsburg hosts annual Fall Festival

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

EDWARDSBURG — The Edwardsburg community got into the fall spirit last weekend.

The Edwardsburg Area Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual fall festival at the Edwardsburg Fire Department on Saturday, Sept. 20.

The Fall Festival and Art Fair included booths from local businesses and organizations, activities for the kids, several local food trucks, live entertainment and many local artists and artisans displaying and selling their work.

According to Fall Festival organizer Dennis Anderson, 83 vendors were on hand for the annual event, which was organized this year to have vendors and food trucks closer together and more connected.

Maxwell Harden / Leader Publications

The Edwardsburg Area Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual fall festival at the Edwardsburg Fire Department on Saturday.

Like last year, a large chalkboard was set up for guests to write down what they love about Edwardsburg. A raffle was conducted with winners receiving donated artworks from vendors.

Anderson was impressed with the turnout and hopes the festival will continue to bring visitors from across Michiana to Edwardsburg.

"I'd like this to be big enough to where the surrounding areas in Michiana go 'we have to check out the Edwardsburg Fall Festival.' I want this to not be just for our community but an example for others to see what our community is about. They can come here and check out our local artists and businesses."

Photo provided

Maxwell Harden / Leader Publications

Cass County Parks to host annual Harvest Fest

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

JONES — Cass County families will have a chance to dress up in their spookiest outfits for some fall fun at an upcoming event hosted by the Cass County Parks Department.

The Cass County Parks Department has once again teamed up with Cass County 4-H, Michiana Jeep Club and the Friends of the Cass County Parks to host the annual Harvest Fest and Trunk or Treat from 2 to 5 p.m. Oct. 18 at Dr. T.K. Lawless Park, 15122 Monkey Run St., Jones. From 3 to 4 p.m., a trunk or treat will be hosted.

Other attractions will include inflatable activities, a "not-so-scary" haunted trail, hayrides, face painting, a choo-choo train, a bonfire, zip line, balloon animals, crafts and more. A costume contest will be hosted, and free pumpkins will be given out as supplies last to children 10 and under.

The entrance fee is one canned good per person, which will be donated to a local food pantry, pet supplies (dog food, cat food, kitty litter, etc. that will be donated to the Cass County Animal Shelter) or $1 per person.

The Friends of the Cass County Parks will be on hand to provide food for purchase with cash. For more information, or if you would like to volunteer or provide a trunk, please call the Cass County Parks Department at (269) 445-4456.

The Cass County Parks Department will host the annual Harvest Fest and Trunk or Treat from 2 to 5 p.m. Oct. 18 at Dr. T.K. Lawless Park.

Photo provided

Berrien County deputies awarded for life-saving actions

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BERRIEN COUNTY — On Thursday, Sept. 25, Sheriff Chuck Heit presented "Lifesaving Awards" to Lieutenant Kristin Barker, Sergeant Craig Staneart, Deputy Kendra Warman and Deputy Ryan Norton. He also presented "Certificates of Commendation" to Deputy Yuji Hairston, Deputy Anthony Lardizabal and Deputy Casey Noack for their outstanding work.

On June 24, 2025, deputies from the midnight shift responded to an inmate who had attempted suicide in a dorm. Upon their arrival, they quickly discovered that he had used a razor to cut himself on his neck and arm and was losing a significant amount of blood.

They immediately called for jail medical staff and began life saving measures applying pressure to the wounds.

The inmate was in and out of consciousness, at times fighting staff to deliberately interfere with life-saving measures. He was transported to Corewell Emergency Department by Medic 1 Ambulance where it was confirmed that he had cut his internal and external jugular vein and had lost 1 to 2 liters of blood.

He was taken into emergency surgery upon arrival at the hospital where he received several sutures on his neck and arm.

Photos provided

From left: Deputy Anthony Lardizabal, Deputy Yuji Hairston, Deputy Casey Noack.

From left: Sergeant Craig Staneart, Lieutenant Kristin Barker, Deputy Kendra Warman. Not Pictured: Deputy Ryan Norton.

Local barber Runyon completes apprenticeship

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — 21-year-old Ashton Runyon has successfully completed his barber apprenticeship with the State of Michigan Licensing and Regulatory Affairs.

The son of Chris Runyon is a Niles native and a 2022 Edwardsburg graduate. Runyon passed a State of Michigan written and practical exam to become a fully licensed barber. To complete his apprenticeship, Runyon had to log 1,800 hours, take weekly tests, document his work and successfully complete his testing.

RUNYON

He did his apprenticeship with Bakeman Barbers in Dowagiac. He studied under Patrick Bakeman's barber license. Runyon works at Bakeman's Monday through Saturday and takes appointments in all men's styles.

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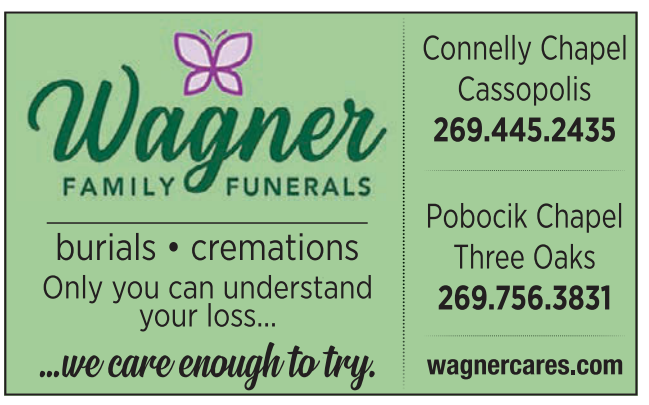

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ADMINISTRATIVE
Publisher
Rich Cains
219-455-2349
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CUSTOMER SERVICE & DISTRIBUTION
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(269-687-7717
amy.glover@leaderpub.com

EDITORIAL
MANAGING EDITOR
Maxwell Harden
231-750-5776
max.harden@leaderpub.com

ADVERTISING
Dennis Hinsey
269-362-1525
dennis.hinsey@leaderpub.com

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OBITUARIES

Ola Hayse

July 10, 1945 – September 19, 2025

With peace and love in our hearts, we celebrate the life of Ola Marie Hayse, who passed away on September 19, 2025, after a long and courageous battle with Alzheimer's disease. She was 80 years old.

Ola was the youngest of six children born on July 10, 1945, in Yazoo City, Mississippi to the late Benard and Velmarie Fouche. Also preceding her in death were siblings: Otis Fouche, Willeva Stokes, and Alton Fouche.

Ola grew up surrounded by love and laughter, and her vibrant spirit was evident from an early age. She attended her early school years in Decatur, MI and graduated from Niles High School in 1963, where she was the school's first Black varsity cheerleader. She attended Southwestern for one year before marrying Rudy Wade (d: 1999) of South Bend, Indiana and moved with him to Altus, Oklahoma where he served in food service in the United States Air Force. To this union, two daughters were born: Tracie Richardson (Southfield, Michigan), and Dawn (DawnyKat) Wade, who preceded her in death on May 30, 2015. This union ended and Ola married Stephen Hayse on June 23, 1979, and remained married for over 46 years.

Ola accepted Christ at an early age and had been a member of Franklin AME Church in Niles, Michigan, and sang in the youth choir. After moving to Detroit, Michigan she joined Hartford Memorial Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan. She worked as a receptionist at R.E Daily Construction Company from 1982 to 1992 but retired after being diagnosed with Fibromyalgia.

Among her many hobbies, Ola was a fierce card player when it came to playing Spades, Poker, and Bid Whist and was the consummate smack talker. She was a masterful cook whose meals were legendary, and a woman who took joy in the appreciation her dishes received. Her home was a haven of comfort, laughter, and love. She enjoyed fishing as well, taking yearly fishing trips to Canada with her husband and other relatives and close friends and often out-fished them! This was her happy place.

Ola was affectionately known as Auntie Gramma, Mom Ola, Oleo, and Punkin' – a name her husband always called her.

Ola's health began to decline around 2013 when she and others close to her began noticing memory losses. She would often write notes to herself to remind her of special birthdays and familial relationships. Though Alzheimer's dimmed the light of her later years, Ola's love, laughter, and legacy continue to shine brightly in the hearts of those who knew her. She leaves to mourn her passing and to cherish their memories: her devoted husband, Stephen Hayse; a loving daughter Tracie Richardson who helped provide her care; two grandchildren: Jason Richardson and Ashleigh Richardson, whom she loved and lived for; a sister: Etha Merlene Fouche; a brother Lenard Fouche; a host of nieces and nephews, and longtime faithful friends that are too many to name.

Her family would like everyone to remember her for the caring, generous, and loving person she was before Alzheimer's stole years of

life and memories from her. To know Ola was to be loved deeply, and her family was her greatest joy – she gave them everything she had! She was the heart of our family and will be dearly missed.

Family and friends will gather in Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services 615 East Main Street Niles, Michigan, Saturday, September 27, 2025 from 9:00a.m. until the time of the service at 10:00a.m. Ola will be laid to rest in Silverbrook Cemetery in Niles.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services. Please share a memory or a message online: Halbriterwickens.com.

Death notices

James Lee Boatright Sr., 51, passed away on September 7, 2025, in St. Louis, Missouri. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Gary Gitchell, 85, of Niles, Passed away on Saturday, September 20, 2025 in Niles. Arrangements are pending and entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles. www.BrownFuneralHome Niles.com

Patrick Vicini, 74, of Eau Claire, passed away Saturday, September 20, 2025. Arrangements have been entrusted to Bowerman Funeral Home & Cremation Services. The funeral was on September 25. www.BowermanFuneral.com

Nathan Howard Osban, 61, passed away on Sunday, September 21 2025, in Niles Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Gary Gitchell

March 13, 1940 – September 20, 2025

Gary Dean Gitchell, a cherished husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend, passed away peacefully on September 20, 2025, in his hometown of Niles, Michigan, at the age of 85. Born to Marvin Duane Gitchell and Vivian Gene (East) Bolton on March 13, 1940, Gary was a lifelong resident of Niles, where he established deep roots and contributed significantly to the community he loved.

Gary was a devoted family man, survived by his loving wife of 38 years, Kathryn Marie (Sykes) Gitchell, his daughter Bethney (Richard) Davidson of Bel Air, Maryland, his sister Joan VanLue, and half-brother Dennis Gitchell. His legacy continues through his granddaughter, Rebecca (Dylan) Schaeffer, and his great-grandson, Leo Scott Schaeffer, who brought him profound joy.

In 1976, Gary founded Gitchell Sign Company, a business that would serve the Niles community for nearly 27 years. His work ethic, creativity, and dedication to his craft earned him respect and admiration from both clients and colleagues. Gary's commitment to his community extended beyond his business as he was actively involved in various associations, always eager to lend a helping hand or share his expertise.

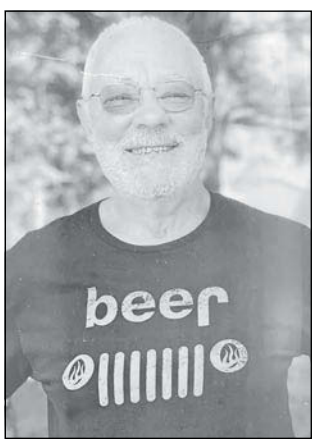
Gary was known for his artistic, imaginative and gifted talents, with the ability to build almost anything – a true craftsman. His skills were not only evident in his work but also in his hobbies. Gary loved decoy carving, painting with pastels, boat building and crafting furniture.

Gary's interests were as vast as his talents. He enjoyed sailing on lake Michigan, playing golf, fishing, camping, and boating on the river. Gary embraced life through adventure, traveling widely and seeking new experiences wherever he went. In his later years, nothing brought him greater joy than spending time with his wife, Kathy, and family, creating cherished memories together.

Those wishing to make a memorial donation may do so to the Wounded Warrior Project at 4899 Belfort Road Suite 300, Jacksonville, FL 32256.

Photos, condolences, and memories may be left for Gary's family at www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com

Gary Gitchell's life was one of purpose, joy, and impact. His presence will be profoundly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. Gary's memory will forever be treasured by those



who knew him, honored with deep respect and the well-earned love of a life lived fully!

Please join Gary's family for a Celebration of Life, on Saturday September 27, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at Front Street Pizza, 510 N. Front Street, Niles Michigan

Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Roxane Elaine Casteel

Roxane Elaine Casteel, age 68, of Niles, Michigan, passed away on September 17, 2025, at home, surrounded by the love and comfort of her family after courageously battling a long illness.

She is survived by her devoted husband of 25 years, Dwain Casteel; her daughter, Jodee Duis; and her cherished granddaughters, Alayna Duis, Alyson Williams, and Parker Williams, all of Niles. Roxane is also survived by her siblings: Diana (Bert) Sage, Christy (Dick) Miller, sister-in-law Alice (Bob) Kater, Kim (Lou Ann) Kater, Nancy Kater, and Gary (Deb) Kater. Her large and loving family includes sixteen nieces and nephews, thirty-one great-nieces and nephews, and six great great-nieces and nephews.

Roxane was preceded in death by her parents, Frederick and Eulila Kater of Niles; her brothers, Don Kater and Bob Kater; and her husband, Donald Duis.

Born on September 15, 1957, Roxane was a lifelong resident of Niles. She graduated with honors in 1975 and continued to serve and support her community throughout her life.

In 2000, Roxane married Dwain Casteel. Together, they enjoyed spending time at the AMVETS Post 1978, where Roxane dedicated thirteen years serving as a bartender and as a member of the women's auxiliary. She was passionate about serving her community and spent many years waitressing and supporting various local events.

Roxane found great joy in life's simplest pleasures. She cherished the time spent with her daughter and grandchildren, and she valued the laughter and connection with her family at frequent gatherings. Conversations with many friends in the community always brought a smile to her face. Her light and laughter will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

A memorial service to honor Roxane's life will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to Hospice of Southwest Michigan.

Connie Ellerbrook

December 6, 1945 – September 22, 2025

Connie Louise Ellerbrook, 79, of Dowagiac, MI, passed away, surrounded by her loving family, Monday, September 22, 2025.

A visitation celebrating Connie's life will be held from 2:00 to 4:00 PM on Sunday, September 28th at Clark Chapel and Cremation Services, 405 Center St., Dowagiac, where friends may visit with her family. A private service will take place at Riverside Cemetery on Monday, September 29th. To share a memory or message of condolence, please visit Connie's personalized webpage at www.clarkch.com.

Connie was born in Dowagiac, December 6, 1945, to Kenneth and Barbara (Townsend) Gard. After graduating from Dowagiac Union High School, she became an administrative assistant for Heddon Lures in Dowagiac. This is where she met and was vigorously pursued by William Ellerbrook. William and Connie were married May 13, 1972, and grew their family with the addition of their son, Brian Ellerbrook. For many years, she worked as a lunch lady for the Dowagiac Union School District. Connie collected bells and enjoyed soap operas and game shows.

Surviving are her husband of 53 years – William Ellerbrook; son – Brian Ellerbrook; sister – Carolyn Davis; and brother – Don (Carol) Gard. She was preceded in death by her parents – Kenneth and Barbara Gard; and sister and brother-in-law – Patricia and Ronald Joanis.

Steven Robinson

April 25, 1982 – September 4, 2025

Steven James Robinson, 43, of Dowagiac, passed away unexpectedly Thursday,

September 4, 2025 in the comfort of his own home.

His life began April 25, 1982 in Dowagiac, Michigan, the first of three children born to Steven and Deborah Williams. Steve loved watching ESPN faithfully every day and spending time with his nieces, nephew, and grands. Steve will be greatly missed by family and friends.

He is survived by survived by his long-time girlfriend, Jamie Whited; two daughters, Averiana Rohrer, Kemery Richards; one son, Josh Richards; five grandchildren Zion, Bradley Jo, Zayden, Remi, and – coming soon – Princess 2.0; two brothers, Jonathan Robinson, William Robinson; two nieces, Makayla Robinson, Matilynn Wright; one nephew, Daontay Martz as well as aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Steven Wayne Robinson and his mother, Deborah Louise Williams.

Family and friends will gather Friday, September 26, 2025, from 2:00p.m. to 4:00p.m. for his service in Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, 202 North Broadway Street, Cassopolis.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

Deborah Forrest

March 28, 1958 – September 20, 2025

Deborah "Deb" Leigh Forrest, a devoted nurse practitioner serving the South Bend and Mishawaka communities, died tragically on September 20, 2025, when a fire broke out at her home at 17222 Barryknoll Way in Granger, Indiana. The cause of the fire remains under investigation. She was the sole occupant of the residence.

Born on March 28, 1958, Deb was the daughter of John and Betty Forrest, who predeceased her. She graduated from Clay High School (South Bend) in 1976, earned a degree in English from Indiana University Bloomington and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Indiana University South Bend, and later completed her nurse practitioner training at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. She went on to build a long and caring career as a nurse practitioner.

Deb was a passionate advocate for animals-especially cats-and poured her time, energy, and heart into their welfare. She loved the outdoors and spent many years kayaking across Indiana and beyond. She also had an eye for photography and a beautiful singing voice.

She is survived by her sisters, Dr. Terry Forrest of Bristol, Tennessee, and Dr. Bonny Forrest of San Diego, California, and by Bonny's husband, Stephen Armstrong, as well as extended cousins in Michigan.

The family will hold a private remembrance. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Deb's memory to Rikki's Refuge, PO Box 1357, Orange, VA 22960.

Memories of Deb may be shared with her family at www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles.

Local paramedics honored at Stars of Life ceremony

LANSING — The life-saving work of a local EMS provider was recognized Tuesday at the state Capitol by the Michigan Association of Ambulance Services.

The recognition was part of the biennial Stars of Life ceremony, which celebrates the contributions of ambulance practitioners who go above and beyond the call of duty in service to their communities or the EMS profession. The 2025 event honored 67 EMS practitioners from across the state on the steps of the Michigan Capitol building.

"The work of Michigan's EMS practitioners is critical to the health and safety of our state," said MAAS Executive Director Angela Madden. "EMS providers show up for local residents on their worst days and bring skill, compassion, and calm to the chaos. The Stars of Life program is a chance to recognize their extraordinary service and remind communities just how much these men and women give of themselves to keep Michigan safe."

Zachary Davis of Southwestern Michigan Community Ambulance Service, Niles

With two years of service, Zach joined SMCAS in 2023 after completing EMT training in Utah, where he also worked as a Wilderness Therapy Field Guide. Known for his professionalism and positive attitude, he helps welcome new employees through first-day orientations and contributes greatly to the supportive culture of his team.

Kayly Probst of Southwestern Michigan Community Ambulance Service, Edwardsburg

With six years of service, Kayly is a skilled and compassionate paramedic who also serves as an Emergency Medical Dispatcher. Her dual role has strengthened coordination between providers and organizations, reflecting her dedication to patient care and her community.

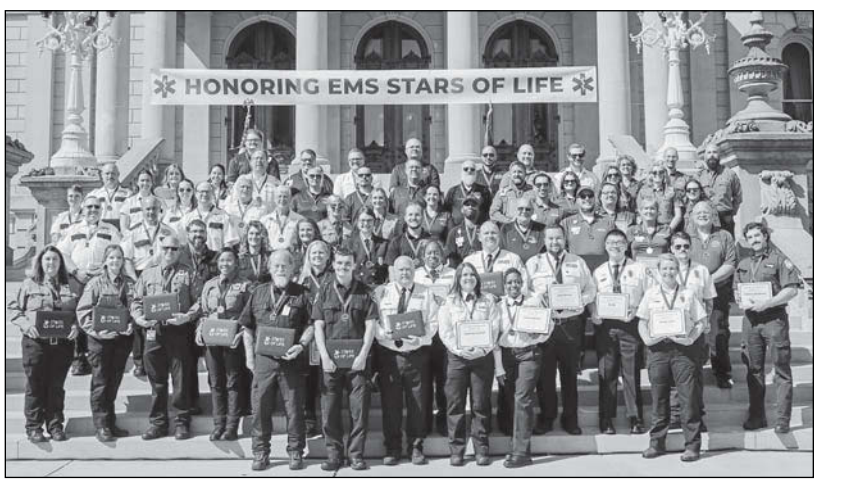


Photo provided

The Michigan Association of Ambulance Services hosted its annual Stars of Life ceremony Tuesday at Lansing.

REDDING

From page A1

Redding noted that her goal is to offer one-year programs for people pursuing a number of health care fields.

"I'm filling a different niche than most nursing schools and offering more educational options," she said. "Students who come here are mainly non-traditional and are going back to school after raising a family."

She said her program isn't really in competition with health care programs at places like Lake Michigan College and Southwestern Michigan College.

"We're clock hour based in terms of hours students complete while LMC and SMC programs are based on credit hours and require prerequisites," she said. "There aren't too many colleges like me."

The current ALR programs have state accreditation and licensing, she said, and she is in the process of getting accreditation for the licensed practical nursing program. ALR has partnerships with Corewell Health and Beacon Health for clinical rotations.

She said that while there is a well documented nursing shortage, there is also a shortage of skilled people in other health care jobs.

"There was a shortage of certified nursing assistants in 2020, but now there is also a shortage of medical assistants, phlebotomy technicians and licensed practical nurses," she said.

"These other health care jobs are the backbone of the system," she added. "It's like with car parts. The engine might be the big picture but you also need screws and spark plugs. They all work together."

Redding said she started looking for more space earlier this year and connected with Jen Tabor who had bought Stark a few years ago before relocating to a Niles location for her business.

"I didn't think I needed that much space, but she reached out to me again," she said.

The last few months have been busy ones with a variety of work being done inside and outside of Stark. Lighting, plumbing, heating and ventilation and flooring have been updated on the inside of the 20,000 square foot building, while the parking lot and landscaping are also being spruced up.

People can learn more about the ALR programs at the www.alrehs.com website.

CIZON

From page A1

TOP LEFT: Rhiannon Cizon, who is the executive director of the Berrien County Historical Association in Berrien Springs, recently donated her kidney.

BOTTOM LEFT: Rhiannon Cizon, who is the executive director of the Berrien County Historical Association, walks through one of her organization's buildings in Berrien Springs.

Photos by Don Campbell / HP staff

What inspired you to donate a kidney?

My journey started like a lot of people. Somebody I knew needed a kidney.

So an old college buddy of mine, David, who I kept in contact with, was diagnosed with degenerative kidney disease in 2021 after years of problems. He was at a point where the only solution really was a kidney transplant. But because he was still in the early stages of his disease, he was fairly low on the recipient list – meaning if he matched with a donor and somebody else matched with that donor and that other recipient was in worse health, they're going to go with the person who's got worse health.

David knew that his best chance was probably a living donor. And actually, it's better from a living donor. It gives you about an extra five or so years on the life of the kidney versus a deceased donor.

Over the next few years, he had a posting pattern where he would post on Facebook and say, "Hey, this is my problem. I'm looking for a kidney. Go to this link to be tested." He would share it for maybe a week or so and then he'd go quiet for a few months and then it would come back.

I remember seeing the post a couple of times and then I saw it in the summer of 2023. I just felt bad because by this point, he's been begging for three years for anybody. Can anybody take the test? I think what was happening was people were taking the test and not being compatible with him.

David posted again in September of 2023. I remember seeing a summer (post) and kind of feeling really bad that he is still asking two to three years later. I don't know what it was about that September (post). I was like, "You know what? It's just a blood test. Why not?"

I went and filled out the form and the transplant coordinator assigned to David's case and I had a chat and she says, "You can go get blood wherever. We'll even pay for it."

So I went and got the blood test and a few weeks went by and (David's coordinator) called me back and says, "You are not compatible." She said, "If you still want to help David, one of the options you have is a paired donation. You give to a stranger and that shoots David up the list." So that makes sense. He's so far down the list.

He was "only" on dialysis three to four days a week, which is still a terrible thing to be on. But because he wasn't on dialysis daily, he was not considered a high priority. So I said, "Let's do it."

Michigan has several transplant centers. I chose Corewell because if there's ever a complication, I have a hospital nearby that has my records and is able to treat me as someone who only has one kidney.

There're different (foundations) that have funds that are meant to help alleviate or reduce the cost of travel and hotel and food and gas and ... lost wages.

They were very accommodating. If I was (in Grand Rapids), they tried to cram as many tests as possible because it's a lot of testing before you are approved. By the time they took the kidney out, I had given 75 vials of blood. I don't know what vampires exist underneath Corewell Grand Rapids, but they need to go find another victim to suck blood out of it. They took 16 vials of blood out the first day I was there.

You did it to help your friend.

So I'm going through all of this and halfway through this process, I get a Facebook message from David. He goes, "Hey, I want you to be the first to know I'm going into surgery first thing in the morning. I got a kidney." I'm like, "What?" He goes, "Deceased donor came through" and he was the only match. If 100 people start the organ donation journey today, about 10 to 15 will make it to surgery. A lot of people will get knocked out for medical reasons. Some people quit because they get scared. Some choose to end the process because it's too much testing. But a significant chunk of people stop the journey because the person they were wanting to help got a kidney or passed away.

At that point I could have made a decision to stop, but my reasoning was somebody needed it. The crew at Corewell was so good to work with that I think if I had not had that good of an experience, I might have stopped the process. But I'm like, "It's a good experience. I got a lot of support and somebody still needs my help."

I see that you're doing well. How is the person who received your kidney doing?

I know that my recipient is a 33-year-old male. He made it through surgery with flying colors.

Would you recommend that other people donate a kidney?

Everyone knows what their limitation is to give to something. Some people choose to give through finances because they don't have time. Some people give through their time. Some people from a medical perspective choose to give blood because it's easy and they don't have to worry about it. It's a fairly safe procedure.

But it takes a lot to be able to give a whole organ to someone while you're alive. Once you're dead, it's a completely different scenario. And to me, it's very strange because here, nine months after surgery, people say, "Oh my gosh, I could never do that." And I often tell people, "You'd be surprised what you're capable of doing," because it was a no-brainer for me to give a whole organ.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

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Mary Mitchell Canter
3824 W 3550 S
West Haven, UT 84401

Frank R. Paxton Trust U/A DTD 1/5/06
23 Meadow Links Drive
Paducah, KY 42001

Joyce W. Paxton Trust UA DTD 1/5/06
23 Meadow Links Drive
Paducah, KY 42001

James F. Paxton, Jr.
201 South 4th Street
Paducah, KY 42003

David M. Paxton
201 South 4th Street
Paducah, KY 42003

Nancy L. Paxton, Trustee of Nancy L. Paxton Trust dated 8/5/2004
49 James Ave
Atherton, CA 94027

Marie Fagen Mitchell
6904 SW 35th Way
Gainesville, FL 32608

Frederick Mitchell & Linda Mitchell, Jointly Without Right of Survivorship
1108 Calico Court
Bowling Green, KY 42104

Martha P. Sinquefield
96 Twin Lake Circle
Umatilla, FL 32784

James L. Sinquefield
96 Twin Lake Circle
Umatilla, FL 32784

Adane Frih Brockenborough Trust, William Brockenborough Trustee
250 Connecticut St. #4
San Francisco, CA 94107

Richard E. Paxton
201 South 4th Street
Paducah, KY 42003

Andrew F. Paxton
1876 S Barona Rd
Palm Springs, CA 92264

Dia Paxton, Trustee of the Dia Paxton Revocable Living Trust dated March 13, 2024
3962 SW Coyote Avenue
Redmond, OR 97756

Douglas E. Paxton
2495 15th Street
San Francisco, CA 94114

Alain d'Epremesnil, Trustee U/A 7/30/85 FBO Margery du Val d'Epremesnil
2929 Broadway
Paducah, KY 42001

Hal Sullivan, Trustee U/A DTD 4/30/99 Alain du Val d'Epremesnil
2929 Broadway
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Edwin John Paxton IV Revocable Trust under Agreement DTD 10/5/05
2250 Olivet Church Rd
Paducah, KY 42001

Bruce P. Brockenborough
PO Box 722
Paducah, KY 42002-0722

William E. Brockenborough
250 Connecticut St. #4
San Francisco, CA 94107

Bryan Sinquefield
2325 Highland Avenue
Falls Church, VA 22046

James T. S. Paxton
201 South 4th Street
Paducah, KY 42003

Michael F. Paxton
201 South 4th Street
Paducah, KY 42003

John D. Paxton
201 South 4th Street
Paducah, KY 42003

Joanna P. Federico 2
01 South 4th Street
Paducah, KY 42003

Daniel T. Paxton
201 South 4th Street
Paducah, KY 42003

Ryan C. Paxton
201 South 4th Street
Paducah, KY 42003

Lauren Paxton Baumgarten
201 South 4th Street
Paducah, KY 42003

Adam George Paxton, Trustee of the Adam George Paxton Revocable Trust date 12/7/2008
1757 17th Street
Santa Monica, CA 90404

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18. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.
Rich Cains, Publisher 09/18/2025

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Corewell celebrates women in medicine

SUBMITTED

ST. JOSEPH — Corewell Health's third annual Southwest Michigan Women in Medicine Symposium attracted more than 200 women – a company record for attendance.

The event, held on Tuesday, Sept. 23, brought together women from all departments of Corewell Health in Southwest Michigan, including clinical leaders, physicians and nurses, administrative team members, medical residents and students.

Tina Freese Decker, President & CEO, Corewell Health, kicked off the event with opening remarks, which highlighted the importance of a growth mindset and embracing possibility as a path to success. Attendees participated in a panel discussion, facilitated by Natalie Baggio, president of Corewell Health in Southwest Michigan. The panel focused on sharing wisdom and giving insight into past experiences to foster a culture of mentorship.

"By bringing together women in medicine, we showed that our strength lies in our shared voice," said Natalie Baggio, president, Corewell Health in Southwest Michigan. "This event's panel discussion was a perfect example of our commitment to supporting each other. I truly believe that by sharing our experiences and collective knowledge, we are building a more unified and powerful workforce."

The agenda also featured a presentation by Susan Enright, DO MACOI, Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, which covered the history of women in medicine, key statistics and challenges for women and insights on how to stay resilient in the health care field.

According to Dr. Enright and reported by the World Health Organization (WHO), women make up 67 percent of the medical workforce, while men make up 33 percent. Despite this, women hold a small minority of leadership positions. This gender disparity highlights the critical need for initiatives and events that promote equity and professional development.

At the event, a powerful message was shared: While statistics may show challenges for women in health care, mentorship is the key to creating meaningful change.

By developing relationships and sharing knowledge in the workplace, women can uplift and advance one another within the industry.

"When women in medicine come together, we create space to learn from one another's journeys, sharing wisdom and encouragement. Through collaboration, we cultivate connection, exchange knowledge and elevate one another – allowing our collective strength to shape a brighter future for the communities that we serve," Baggio said.

To learn more about career opportunities at Corewell Health, visit https://careers.corewellhealth.org/us/en/home.

SMC hosts Michigan school counselors

By JOHN EBY
Southwestern Michigan College

DOWAGIAC — Southwestern Michigan College updated local educational partners at the annual Michigan Counselor Breakfast Sept. 18 in Mathews Conference Center East on the Dowagiac campus.

Counselors received a preview of the 2025-26 academic year and met SMC's admissions team.

Eighteen counselors attended from Berrien Springs, Brandywine, Bridgman, Dowagiac, Edwardsburg, Heritage Southwest Intermediate School District (ISD, Cassopolis), Marcellus, New Buffalo, Niles, Phoenix High School of Kalamazoo and River Valley (Three Oaks).

Vice President of Student Experience Dr. Katie Hannah, a former school counselor, welcomed guests.

"We value your partnerships," said Hannah, who has been at SMC for 11 years. "We know how much your students look to you for recommendations and guidance."

SMC "had a fabulous year for enrollment," she said. "Our enrollment is up 12 percent from last year, which had a lot to do with free community college in Michigan and our Green Light Guarantee. We're focused on closing the attainment gap. In 2024 in Cass County, we had about 430 high school graduates. Only 39 percent went to any college."

SMC's Green Light Guarantee "goes farther than free in-district tuition," Hannah said. "We basically provide scholarships for students in Berrien County, Van Buren County and Kalamazoo County, which are out-of-district. SMC closes the gap to come here tuition-free."

Hannah introduced the admissions team:

Executive Director of Enrollment Management and Educational Partnerships Steve Way.

Manager of Admissions and Adult Recruitment Coordinator Ben Spencer.

Senior Admissions Counselor and Event Coordinator Allyson Harris. She oversees Brandywine, Dowagiac, Edwardsburg, Marcellus, Heritage Southwest ISD and Niles.

Admissions Counselors Ethan Saylor and Madeline Collins, like Harris, are SMC alumni. He is the contact in Berrien County for Berrien Springs, Bridgman, Eau Claire, New Buffalo, River Valley and St. Joseph. Collins is responsible for Indiana, Decatur and Phoenix High School.

Director of Dual Enrollment Juliann Jankowski reported there are 585 dual-enrolled students this fall.

SMC Director of Dual Enrollment Juliann Jankowski speaks to counselors at at the annual Michigan Counselor Breakfast Thursday, Sept. 18.
Photo provided

"That is a 15-percent increase over last year," she said. "Of those 585, 18 are Early Middle College students. We have 210 students out of that 585 enrolled in at least one online course."

Academic Dean for the School of Health, Natural and Social Sciences Dr. Melissa Kennedy speaks to counselors at at the annual Michigan Counselor Breakfast Thursday, Sept. 18. (Photo provided)

For the benefit of new counselors, Jankowski reviewed processes for registration, schedule changes, enrollment reports, academic warnings, books, disability services, billing and accessing Wired/Moodle.

"Dual enrollment continues to grow across the country," Jankowski said. "We have the Michigan Transfer Agreement, so if you finish 10 courses that is the equivalent of the first year of general ed at any four-year institution. AP (Advanced Placement) courses, if they score high enough, can count."

Academic Dean for the School of Health, Natural and Social Sciences Dr. Melissa Kennedy gave an update on new health-services degrees, MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) Technology and Radiography Technology, which are run in partnership with other Michigan community colleges.

"These programs are super expensive to run," Kennedy said. "We couldn't afford to buy our own MRI machine in Dowagiac, nor do we have a place that wouldn't irradiate everyone else on campus. But these programs lead to highly paid positions. MRI classes are completed online, with hands-on clinicals for 24 hours a week completed alongside certified techs at local centers. These competitive pathways have specific prerequisites. For MRI, we get only eight to 12 seats a year. Radiography is brand-new and we just admitted our first four students.

"Health services has grown tremendously, with eight new programs in the last two years. Most of our MRI students go to Beacon in South Bend. Some opt to go to Bronson in Kalamazoo. One MRI student lives in Michigan City, so she got into the hospital there," Kennedy said.

Harris highlighted upcoming campus events: Sept. 24, College Fair, with 53 colleges and universities expected; Oct. 3, Automotive Day for about 300 students; Nov. 14, a new event, Roadrunner Day: Campus Life; March 19, Nursing Program Preview Night; two open houses, Oct. 17 and March 24; and May 17, Junior Day.

EQUIPMENT

From page A1

■ **One 2500 KVA pad mount transformer from T&R Electric Supply Co. of Colman, South Dakota for $45,960**

The Utilities Department Electric Division recently replaced an active 1500KVA power bank that was installed inside a separate section of the Eastside Park Well House, with a single 2500 KVA pad mount transformer which was installed outside of the building. By relocating this power bank and upgrading the equipment, this circuit will have an additional 66.6 percent of available power and dramatically improves the safety of the crews who access this equipment by improving the arc flash rating as it's now located outdoors and eliminating having to enter a confined space to access the equipment.

There are three important locations in the distribution system that utilize this equipment: Eastside Park power bank, the intersection of 17th & Lake and the secondary power source at the Niles Hospital.

■ **One spare primary transformer ($59,500 from ECB Solutions, LLC of Oxford, Mississippi) and one spare primary voltage regulator ($141,072 from Power Line Supply of Reed City, Michigan)**

The Utilities Department Electric Division provides Niles Hospital with two power sources; a primary source (provided from a 34.5 KV transmission circuit) and a secondary source (provided from a 12 KV distribution circuit).

Niles Hospital's primary power source requires two pieces of equipment: a transformer and voltage regulator. The ratings on the transformer and voltage regulator are not used by any other Niles customer. Providing spares will greatly reduce the time that the hospital is reduced to a single power source following an equipment failure.

■ **Two water meters from ETNA of Grand Rapids for $6,500**

The YMCA has a four-inch water meter for their domestic water that is old and will not work with the current Iton or the Nicore reading system any longer. The only way to obtain a monthly usage reading is for the operators to enter a confined space and read the meter manually.

The City Water System has 15 total four-inch water meters. Currently there are no additional four-inch meters in inventory and would like to order one to replace the YMCA meter and second for a spare.

■ **One replacement cylinder for excavator from ALTA Equipment Company of Parma, Michigan for 3,121.97**

The Steel-wrist is an attachment for the EW130 Volvo excavator and during the course of normal operations one of the hydraulic cylinders started to leak hydraulic fluid and needed to be replaced.

ALTA Equipment Company of Parma, MI is where the EW130 Volvo excavator was purchased along with multiple attachments and where replacement parts can be ordered.

In other business, council:

■ Approved a resolution to place the DART millage renewal on the November 4, 2025 General Election.

■ Authorized Information Systems to accept the quote in the amount of $42,934.75 from Applied Innovations of Lansing, Michigan for Docu Ware software upgrades, training, and additional user licenses, with the expense to be charged 70 percent to the City's and 30 percent to the Utility Department's Computer Equipment and Supplies budgets.

■ Authorized a Fiscal Year 2025 General Fund revenue amendment in the amount of $3,697,178, General Fund expense amendment in the amount of $3,511,163, and other funds expense amendment in the amount of $3,153,793.

■ Entered into an agreement with Cooperative Purchase Program, at no cost to participate, to facilitate discount pricing from HD Supply Facilities Maintenance, LTD.

■ Authorized the Utilities Department to enter into an Agreement by means of a Letter of Intent with NextEra Energy Resources, LLC to continue negotiating Definitive Agreements for the development and installation of a 10 MW Solar System and an 8.75 MW Battery Energy Storage System on City property.

■ Authorized the Utilities Department to participate in MPPA's Retail Energy Improvement Project and the associated Energy Waste Reduction Plan for 2026 to 2029.

■ Authorized DART to purchase two complete track assemblies for driver seats in two buses at a cost of $5,314.06 from Eby Ford of Goshen, Indiana with the expense to be paid for by FY 2023 FTA/MDOT grants.

■ Approved the proposed 2025 Revised Personnel Manual.

■ Approved the CDBG consultant agreement with Sonya Vitale for years 2025 through 2029, at a cost of $45,000 per year.

COLLEGE FAIR

From page A1

"Transportation plays a huge role" in the attendance increase, Harris said. "It's more convenient for students to attend during school hours. We also have a large number of dual-enrolled students who may already be on campus."

Not counted in the 505 total is any current SMC students who availed themselves of the opportunity.

"We communicate early on with the counselors and try to get them on board with bringing students to the College Fair," Harris said. "They understand how beneficial it is for their students to meet with college reps."

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BEACON HEALTH SYSTEM

Community development director Rich Murphy resigns

By DEBRA HAIGHT
For the Star

Photo provided
Buchanan Community Development Director Rich Murphy Murphy resigned from his position effective Sept. 12.

BUCHANAN — News came late Monday that Community Development Director Richard Murphy had resigned from his position. In an email sent out Monday evening, Murphy reported that he had resigned effective Sept. 12.

He thanked residents and city staff for working with him to forge "a vision for Buchanan." He did not give specifics about his future plans, only saying "now it's time for me to move on to forge the next vision." Murphy had been the community development director since January, 2021, coming from Michigan City.

"I always call Buchanan 'small but mighty,' a small place that punches well above its weight class, and 'off the beaten path' in the best way," Murphy said. "We forged A Vision for Buchanan and we built it together. Buchanan is stronger and better and poised for greatness because of you. I have no doubt that you will continue to implement the Vision for Buchanan that you have in your hearts and minds for decades to come… For now, it's not goodbye, but see you on Front St. or down by the river."

City Manager Tony McGhee said that the position has been posted and he hopes to start interviews next month with other staff splitting Murphy's duties in the meantime. He said the community director's duties have been changed to refocus the position on items like code enforcement, the new rental registration program and overall quality of life in the community and neighborhoods.

Buchanan commissioners approve downtown liquor license, short-term rental ordinance

By DEBRA HAIGHT
For the Star

BUCHANAN — Monday's Buchanan City Commission meeting featured approval of a new short term rental ordinance as well as the start of action on two other ordinances. Commissioners also gave local approval of a liquor license for a new downtown event venue.

In action Monday, commissioners recommended approval of a liquor license for a new venture in the former Clark Equipment complex now known as Building 324. The liquor license request will now go to the state Liquor Control Commission for final approval.

McGhee said the license request is under the Downtown Development Authority. He noted that Michigan DDA liquor licenses are a tool designed to encourage redevelopment and reinvestment in downtown districts and that multiple liquor licenses are allowed in a DDA district.

Building 324 owner Randy Hendrixson said after the meeting that he plans to open an event space in a large area on the south side of the building toward Front Street. He said renovations will start soon with the goal of opening after the first of the year. He said the venue will host corporate and live events.

Monday, commissioners held a second reading and enactment of the new short term rental ordinance. Unlike last month when two people spoke out against the proposed ordinance, no one spoke during Monday's public hearing.

People in August had said that the short term rental moratorium put in place in March had hurt the sale of their property. They also took issue with the premise of the discussion that short term rentals hurt the school district.

Short term rentals will be allowed mainly in the downtown corridor and will not be allowed in single family residential districts. The new ordinance will grandfather in the 15 existing short term rental properties in the city and that another 15 short term rentals will be allowed in non single family residential neighborhoods.

Two new ordinance matters were also discussed. The commission accepted the introduction of the new zoning ordinance and set a public hearing and first reading for Oct. 13. They also directed Clerk Kalla Langston-Weiss to update the ordinance governing filing deadlines for city commission seats.

In the latter matter, Langston-Weiss said Commissioner Dan Vigansky had brought the matter to her attention earlier this year. She said the city changed the filing deadline in 2018 from 15 weeks before the primary election to 15 weeks before the general election. State law puts the filing deadline at the earlier date and the city is looking to go back to that.

As for the zoning ordinance, McGhee and Langston-Weiss said that the planning commission has done an extensive review of multiple drafts over the last few years before bringing it to the city commission.

The updated ordinance is called a "unified development code" and represents a whole new approach to zoning and development, McGhee said. The new ordinance is "form based" rather than "traditional use based" as it balances growth with preservation with an emphasis on encouraging compact, pedestrian-oriented, mixed use development.

Commissioners amended the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant application they made in the spring for St. Joseph Riverfront improvements. McGhee said state officials have indicated that the city's application is right on the bubble of being approved and that increasing the city's contribution could help make sure it is funded.

The city had been asking for a $400,000 grant to pay for a fishing platform and restrooms with a $150,000 local match. With Monday's action, the city is increasing its match to 30 percent of the total cost or $165,000 and asking for $385,000.

Niles High School staff member placed on leave

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — A Niles High School staff member has been placed on administrative leave, according to a statement from the Niles Community Schools district.

The district is conducting an internal investigation and did not provide specific details regarding the situation.

"At Niles Community Schools, the safety and well-being of our students and staff are our highest priorities," said Superintendent Dr. Adam Burtsfield. "While we are unable to share specific details or comment on any individual due to this being a personnel matter, we are taking this matter very seriously."

Leaderpub.com will be updated when more information becomes available.

Photo provided
Buchanan Community Schools announced its 2025 Hall of Fame inductees during halftime of its home varsity football game on Sept. 12.

Buchanan Community Schools recognizes 2025 Hall of Fame inductees

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BUCHANAN — Buchanan Community Schools announced its 2025 Hall of Fame inductees during halftime of its home varsity football game on September 12.

Each year, a committee of school leaders and staff members reviews nominations in three categories: Contributions to Society, Performance in School-Related Activities, and Contributions to Buchanan Community Schools. This year's honorees have shaped the community and schools in ways that continue to inspire generations.

Bill Rae Desenberg, Contributions to Society

Bill Rae Desenberg devoted his life to strengthening Buchanan. A 1927 graduate, voted "Best All Around," Bill went on to earn degrees from the University of Notre Dame before returning home to serve as Buchanan's City Attorney for 35 years. His leadership was instrumental in securing Memorial Field and establishing the City Charter. Together with his wife, Marjorie, the Desenbergs donated $260,000 to launch the independent Buchanan District Library. Today, the Children's Library proudly bears their name. This award was presented posthumously and accepted by his son, Lou Desenberg.

David Casey and Mark Nixon, Contributions to Buchanan Community Schools

Dave Casey established the district's Outdoor Education Program in the early 1970s, guiding the purchase of the 100-acre school farm in 1972–73. Mark Nixon carried this legacy forward for more than three decades as principal and program coordinator. Together, they provided thousands of students with hands-on learning in agriculture and nature. Buchanan's school farm remains one of only two active programs in Michigan, continuing to inspire students after more than 50 years.

1978 Men's Basketball State Championship Team, Performance in School-Related Athletics

The 1978 Buchanan Bucks etched their names in history by finishing with a remarkable 27-1 record and capturing the Michigan Class C State Championship. Led by Coach Mike Rouse and two-time All-Stater Gerald Busby, the team showcased determination, skill, and school pride that will forever be remembered.

Team Members: Todd Cornwell, Alan Ward, Joe Watts, Brad Pointer, Rydell Tutson, Moses Kyles, Ronnie Williams, Dave Price, Jeff Butler, Gerald Busby, Greg Frazier, and Dave Karpinski. The district welcomed members of the championship team, including Coach Mike Rouse, Manager Rick Eichler, Moses Kyles, Todd Cornwell, Dave Price, Jeff Butler, James Busby representing the late Gerald Busby, Brad Pointer, Joe Watts and the 1978 cheerleaders.

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Sports

Got results?
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Tanya Hagen / For Leader Publications

Alex Anderson totaled 11 carries for 290 yards and five touchdowns in Niles' 57-27 win over Otsego last week.

Anderson's five touchdowns pace Niles in 57-27 win over Otsego

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — Alex Anderson had a game to remember.

The Niles senior totaled 290 yards and five touchdowns on just 11 carries as the Vikings ran away from Otsego 57-27 Friday, Sept. 19.

Nursing a 22-20 lead at halftime, the Vikings responded by outsourcing Otsego 45-7 in the second half. The Vikings' offense outgained Otsego 492-389, including 481-86 edge in rushing yards.

Anderson scored on plays of 17, 2 59, 33 and 16 yards. Elijah Norris had 100 rushing yards and one touchdown on 18 and Brandon Walsh added 61 yards and one touchdown on 10 carries. carries while Dillon Pearman also scored on a 10-yard run.

On defense, Jayelin Vawter had seven total tackles and Sheldon Cornelius had seven total tackles and one sack. Ward Cheney recorded three tackles and one sack.'

Otsego quarterback Kaleb Hildebrand completed 9 of 15 passes for 302 yards and touchdown passes of 83, 24 and 87 yards.

Niles faced Sturgis Friday night. Visit leaderpub.com for a recap of the game.

Paw Paw 35, Edwardsburg 7 (Thursday)

Ben Miller totaled four rushing touchdowns for Paw Paw in a 35-7 win over Edwardsburg Thursday, Sept. 18.

Trailing 6-0 in the first, Edwardsburg quarterback Ryland Savoie found Jaxon Rinehart on a 10-yard touchdown pass to take a 7-6 lead. From there, it was all Paw Paw, who scored 29 unanswered points to hand the Eddies their first loss of the season.

Edwardsburg faced Otsego Friday night at home. Visit leaderpub.com for a recap of the game.

SMC volleyball remains undefeated in conference

DOWAGIAC — The Southwestern Michigan College volleyball team swept Kalamazoo Valley Community College in their opening conference match, winning 25-18, 25-14 25-16. With the win, the Roadrunners remain undefeated at 3-0 in the conference and 11-3 overall.

Amie Schutz led the team with 16 kills and 10 points. She also contributed nine digs and a block. Ryli Burks had a strong defensive game with 19 digs, while also adding 10 kills and a team-high three aces. Meah Evans led the team in assists with 21. She also had seven kills and a team-high 12 serving points.

Lily Kowalik was a force at the net with a team-high five blocksand Carlie Ritchie had a team-high 19 digs.

"We worked hard at practice to be prepared to force KVCC to change the way they run their offense," said head Coach Jenny Nate. "Our blockers started doing that immediately, which led to them attacking a little safer, giving us the opportunity to attack hard from every spot on the net and control the scoring runs. Our total focus on our goals and controlling the tempo of the match really paid off tonight. I was proud of our confidence and the way we worked as a team."

Photo provided

The SMC volleyball team swept KVCC Wednesday.

Buchanan volleyball goes 4-2 at Bridgman Invite

BRIDGMAN — The Buchanan volleyball team fin - ished with a 4-2 record Saturday at the Bridgman Invite, ultimately falling in the finals to Michigan Lutheran.

In the finals, Buchanan lost to the Titans with scores of 20-25 and 21-25. Earlier in the tournament, the Bucks defeated White Pigeon (21-13, 21-18), Red Arrow (21-16, 21-6) and Berrien Springs (21-16, 21-11). They split a match against Bridgman (21-15, 19-21), winning by points.

Gabby Carson led the team with 25 kills, followed by Ella Fanslow with 21 and Kenzie Boller with 18. Sydney Denison had 15 kills, Abby Bosse had seven, and Kate Holloway had five.

On defense, Emily Holt recorded 33 digs and Finley Kehoe had 25. Fanslow added 22 digs, while Haylee Legault had 11 and Morgan Weldy nine. Weldy was the assist leader for the day with 93. Denison led the team with 10 aces and Legault added five.

It's a runaway win

Scott Hassinger / For Leader Publications

Cameron White (4) from Dowagiac breaks a long run towards the end zone in the first half in Friday's home football win over Marshall.

Dowagiac leans on powerful rushing attack, turnovers to beat Marshall 41-22

By SCOTT HASSINGER
For Leader Publications

DOWAGIAC — Once he's able to iron out a few issues, Duane Davis feels his Dowagiac football team could be a group to be reckoned with.

Davis saw glimpses of good execution in the Chieftains' 41-22 non-conference win at home Friday over Marshall on Chris Taylor Alumni Field.

"Our guys keep fi ghting and are a very gritty bunch. I'm excited about what we can do. But we have some issues that we have to address and most of the time that isn't related to the game or the practice fi eld. We have some distractions that we have to address if we want to become a complete team. Some of its execution and

See **CHIEFTAINS**, page B2

Scott Hassinger / For Leader Publications

Dowagiac linebacker Cooper Szymcak (7) tackles Marshall tailback Akin Olapade (3).

Tanya Hagen / For The Herald-Palladium

Buchanan's Isaiah Nelson (23) tackles Brandywine's Elijhia Burt (9) during Friday's game.

Buchanan routs Brandywine 64-6 in annual rivalry matchup

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BUCHANAN — Head coach Mark Frey felt his Buchanan football team left a lot on the field in last week's loss to Battle Creek Pennfield.

The Bucks bounced back Friday to the tune of a 64-6 win over rival Brandywine to improve their season record to 3-1. The Bucks dominated the game, outgaining Brandywine in total yards 420-67 and earning 24 first downs to Brandywine's six.

"I was really proud of our guys and how we bounced back from last week," he said. "Our goal tonight was to limit those mistakes and execute at a higher level and I thought they did."

The Bucks' scoring began in the first quarter with a 1-yard touchdown run by Carson Deming. Brody Reed added an 8-yard touchdown run and Owen Thompson caught a 12-yard touchdown pass from Lucas Zeiger.

Buchanan's offense continued to produce in the second quarter, with Max Cornelius scoring on an 11-yard run and Reed adding another 8-yard rushing touchdown. Reed also caught a 17-yard touchdown pass from Zeiger. In the third quarter, Deming scored on a 41-yard run and

Jameson Pleasant added a 5-yard rushing touchdown.

Kavion Goss scored the final touchdown on a 1-yard run in the fourth quarter.

For the game, Cornelius led all rushers with 157 yards and one touchdown on 15 carries. Deming had 71 rushing yards and two touchdowns on five carries. Zeiger completed five of six passes for 53 yards and two touchdowns. Reed led

See **BUCKS**, page B2

Nick Shelton / For Leader Publications

Malachi Fields flips during Sept. 20's game against Purdue.

Notre Dame downs Purdue 56-30

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

SOUTH BEND — Notre Dame overcame a lengthy rain delay to defeat interstate foe Purdue 56-30.

The Irish offense was efficient, racking up a total of 535 yards compared to Purdue's 379. The rushing game was effective, with Notre Dame gaining 254 yards on the ground while holding Purdue to just 76.

Jeremiyah Love led the rushing attack with 157 yards and two touchdowns on 19 carries and Jadarian Price totaling 74 yards and three touchdowns on nine carries while also scoring a 100-yard kick return touchdown. Quarterback CJ Carr completed 10 of 12 passes for 223 yards and two touchdowns without an interception. Key receiving targets included Jordan Faison with five receptions for 105 yards and a touchdown, and Malachi Fields, who had two receptions for 78 yards and a touchdown.

Purdue's offense was led by quarterback Ryan Browne, who completed 21 of 34 passes for 250 yards with one touchdown and one interception. The team's leading receivers were Nitro Tuggle, who had three catches for 66 yards and a touchdown, and MMichael Jackson III, who caught four passes for 62 yards.

Running back Devin Mockobee had seven receptions for 56 yards and a 14-yard touchdown pass to Browne. On the ground, Purdue struggled to find momentum, with their leading rusher Malachi Singleton gaining 26 yards on five attempts. The Boilermakers were also hampered by penalties, committing seven for 75 yards, while Notre Dame had three for 30 yards.

Dowagiac, Cassopolis golf teams turn in strong performances

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — The Dowagiac girls golf team competed in two recent SAC Lakeshore Division tournaments, securing third and second place finishes.

At Indian Lake Hills on Monday, South Haven won the event with a score of 206, followed by Cassopolis with a 211 and Dowagiac in third with 220. Bree Behnke led the Chieftains, finishing second with a 48, while Jaden Kusch took sixth with a 51. Cassopolis' Ava Wagoner was the medalist with a 44, and Olivia Hayden tied for third with a 49.

On Thursday at the Diamond Lake Golf Course, Dowagiac and South Haven both shot 198, with South Haven taking first based on the fifth player's score and Cassopolis third with a 204.

Behnke was the medalist with a 42 and Charlotte Maxey tied for second with a personal best of 45, which included two birdies. Kusch tied for eighth with a 51. For Cassopolis, Wagoner tied for second with a 45, Hayden was seventh with a 50 and Brooklyn Smith tied for eighth with a 51.

BUCKS

From page B1

the team in receiving yards with 30 and also scored two rushing touchdowns.

"They all said last week wasn't good enough and so they came in,fired up and ready to go," Frey said. "Our job is to try to mix it up and get those guys the ball the best way we can and tonight I felt like we did a good job of mixing it up across the board and getting those guys an opportunity and they took advantage of it."

On defense, Pleasant had five total tackles and one sack for Buchanan and Reed and RJ Scoggin each had one interception while Zeiger and JonTel Williams-Bruton each recovered a fumble.

Brandywine's only score came in the first quarter on a 5-yard touchdown pass from Kaeden Warfield to Nylen Goins. The Bobcats are now 0-4 on the season.

"We need to be more consistent," said Brandywine head coach Jeff Miller. "We have talent on this team but we're not executing consistently enough to be successful."

Frey likes what he is seeing from his team as the season nears the halfway point.

"This is a really fun team to coach," Frey said. "They come hungry every day and the defense is owning their role real well right now. We're not giving up a ton of points."

Frey also highlighted the unselfish play of the offense.

"Everyone is not worried about themselves," Frey said. "They're worried about the offense as a whole, and it's good to see us move the ball down the field methodically and rather than 'I need the ball, I need this and that.' "It's a real team atmosphere. It's a lot of fun to coach."

The Bucks travel to Berrien Springs Friday for a 7 p.m.

Ground game, defense buoy Wolverines to 30-27 win over Nebraska

COURTESY OF MICHIGAN ATHLETICS

LINCOLN, Neb. – The No. 21-ranked University of Michigan football team opened Big Ten play with a 30-27 win over Nebraska at Memorial Stadium on Saturday (Sept. 20). After a back-and-forth first half which saw the game tied at 17, the Wolverines won the possession battle and outrushed the Cornhuskers by 132 yards in the second half to claim victory.

After allowing 17 points and 253 yards in the first half, the Maize and Blue defense buckled down in the second half and allowed just 10 points on 98 total yards. U-M won the game at the line of scrimmage by racking up seven sacks and 10 tackles for loss and holding the Cornhuskers to just 43 yards on the ground.

Offensively, Michigan relied on the ground game all afternoon, totaling 286 rushing yards split between Justice Haynes (17 rushes, 149 yards), Jordan Marshall (six rushes, 80 yards) and Bryce Underwood (eight rushes, 61 yards) – who added 105 passing yards as well. All three Wolverines ball carriers scored touchdowns of at least 37 yards in the win.

The Wolverines held the Cornhuskers scoreless on their first two drives of the game (turnover on downs, missed field goal) despite entering Michigan territory on each. The latter stop led to a 46-yard scoring drive capped off by a 46-yard Dominic Zvada field goal to open scoring.

On Nebraska's ensuing drive, a Dylan Raiola pass was tipped by Jyaire Hill to a sprawling Cole Sullivan for an interception. Michigan took offensive possession at the Cornhuskers' 37-yard line and immediately scored by way of an Underwood rushing touchdown – his third in the last two weeks – to take a 10-0 lead as the first quarter came to a close.

After forcing a fumble halfway through the second quarter, the Cornhuskers nailed a 39-yard field goal – their first points of the game. They followed this with a 26-yard passing touchdown on their next drive to tie the game with two minutes remaining in the first half.

The Maize and Blue responded on the first offensive play of their next possession, as Haynes broke free for a 75-yard touchdown run – his second such play of the season – to move the Wolverines back ahead 17-10.

On the final play of the first half, Nebraska re-tied the game with an explosive play of its own – a 52-yard heave for a touchdown as time expired.

In the game's third frame, the Wolverines took advantage of field position stemming from a punt, which held Nebraska to a drive start at its own three-yard line and took another lead in the back-and-forth contest. Zvada tied his career long with a 56-yard field goal to move U-M ahead 20-17 halfway through the third quarter.

After forcing a three-and-out, Michigan extended its lead to 10 points with another explosive run – a 54-yard run by Marshall that marked his career long.

Nebraska added a third-quarter field goal and a late fourth-quarter touchdown, but the effort was not enough to overcome the Wolverines' strong defensive effort in the second half. U-M forced three punts on three-and-outs in the game's final 30 minutes and managed to hold the Cornhuskers to 3:49 of possession time in the fourth quarter in the three-point conference victory.

Michigan continues its Big Ten schedule next Saturday (Oct. 5) against Wisconsin at Michigan Stadium. Kickoff time and network designation are to be announced.

CHIEFTAINS

From page B1

some mental things. There are outside distractions that are my responsibility to take care of," said Dowagiac head coach Duane Davis.

Behind a powerful running game that netted 331 yards on 54 carries, Dowagiac (3-1) built itself an early 14-0 advantage. Senior Tim Masterman (5-foot-7, 205 pounds) scampered into the Redhawks' end zone from six yards (7:57) followed by Cameron White's four-yard ground strike (5:30). Chieftains' senior place kicker Johannah McDonald was successful on both PATS.

White recovered a Marshall fumble near midfield to help set up Dowagiac's second scoring drive covering 60 yards.

Marshall's first touchdown came with 2:36 left in the period on a 12-yard burst by senior tailback Akin Olapade. Matthew Waito completed a two-point conversion pass to Kye Saunders, slicing the Redhawks' deficit to 14-8 entering the second quarter.

Senior defensive back Devin Rock came up with the first of his two interceptions, both in the first half, to help set up the next Chieftains' touchdown with 2:25 left before intermission.

Rock's interception set the Dowagiac offense up at the Marshall 25. The Chieftains cashed in eight plays later on White's three-yard plunge. Dowagiac senior halfback Quentin Hill had a critical six-yard gain on fourth down and four from the nine to keep the drive intact. McDonald added the PAT to send the hosts into halftime with a 21-8 lead.

Dowagiac had two chances to add to its lead in the first half. The Chieftains reached the Marshall one-yard line before turning the ball over on downs. The other scoring opportunity came with time winding down in the first half. Rock recorded his second interception and returned the ball 27 yards to the Marshall 22. But the Chieftains would give the ball back again the Redhawks on a fumble.

Marshall went on an impressive drive to start the third quarter that reached the Dowagiac 27. The Chieftains' Riley McCafferey recovered a Redhawks' fumble on the 11th play of the drive to end that scoring threat.

Dowagiac took over possession at its own 39 and drove 61 yards in nine plays capped off by Masterman's two-yard touchdown strike with 2:13 left in the stanza. McDonald's PAT was blocked but the hosts' had increased their advantage to 27-8.

Olapade pounced one yard into Dowagiac's endzone just six plays later with eight seconds left in the third, lessening the Redhawks' deficit to 27-14. Dominic Purcell's conversion run was stopped short of the goal line.

Dowagiac senior quarterback Skyler Vincek raced 28 yards around left end and successfully placed the football inside the pylon for the hosts' next score. The Chieftains led 33-14 with 10:23 left in the fourth quarter after McDonald's PAT went wide.

A short time later, Marshall got great field position after Dowagiac gambled and went for it on fourth down and eight but failed to convert, giving the Redhawks possession at the Chieftains' 39.

Waito hooked up with his senior wide receiver Landon Patton on a 39-yard scoring pass on the first play of the ensuring drive, cutting the Redhawks' deficit to 33-22 after a successful conversion pass to Olapade.

But Dowagiac added an insurance score seven plays after that with Hill sprinting the final eight yards to cap off a 50-yard drive. Rock hauled in the conversion pass from Vincek to cap the scoring with 1:59 left in the contest.

Hill recovered another Marshall fumble with 1:47 left giving Dowagiac possession at the Redhawks' 27. The excitement was shortlived, however, as Dowagiac fumbled the ball away to Marshall's Colin Stealy. Marhall's offense came back on the field and ran four more plays before the game ended.

Vincek emerged as Dowagiac's top ballcarrier on the night with 12 rushes worth 107 yards and one TD. White added seven touches for 66 yards and two TDs.

Through the air, Vincek completed 5-of-7 passes for 41 yards. Rock had two catches for 21 yards.

Davis was pleased with what he saw out of his offensive line.

"Our offensive line is fast and physical and they get off the football quickly. They've been doing a nice job of driving opponents off the ball all season. We're undersized almost every time we hit the field, but this group doesn't care about that. We just come play our brand of football," Davis added.

Dowagiac's coach singled out the performances of his two-year starter Austin Thunell at right tackle; junior guard Maverick Baerg; along with a sophomore and freshmen who got some rotations during the absence of another starting guard that recently went down with an injury.

"I'm super proud of Austin and how well he's been stepping up for us," Davis noted.

White led Dowagiac defensively from his defensive back's position with eight tackles and one fumble recovery. Cooper Szymczak added six tackles for the Chieftains.

Dowagiac's defensive unit. limited Marshall to just 95 yards rushing and 108 through the air.

Dowagiac faced Brandywine (0-4) Friday night. Visit leaderpub.com for a recap of the game.

Edwardsburg boys tennis edges Niles

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — The Edwardsburg boys tennis team defeated Niles 5-3 on Wednesday.

In singles matches, Edwardsburg swept all four flights. Adam Redden defeated Stephen Applewhite at No. 1 singles, 6-2, 6-0. At No. 2, Logan Summy won against Collin Brown with a score of 6-0, 6-0. Ethan Layman defeated Abe Knight 6-4, 6-1 at No. 3 singles, and Bryce Linton won against Ryker Leaverton 6-0, 6-1 at No. 4 singles.

In doubles, Niles won three of the four matches. At No. 2, the team of Matthew Richards and Shawn Atkins defeated Kade Hoven and Xander Souchick 6-0, 6-3. The No. 3 team of Carson Pugh and Sam Lundberg won against Reef Cuthbert and Zach Layman, 6-4, 6-4.

At No. 4 doubles, Gavin Dandurand and Eli Chism defeated Braden Farmer and Lincoln Freudenburg 7-6 (4), 7-5. Edwardsburg's No. 1 doubles team of Brandon Van Overberghe and Keston Mcguire defeated Logan Paluzzi and Joshua Becraft in a three-set match, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3.

Classifieds Marketplace

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PROBATE COURT
CASS COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO.
2025-166-DE
JUDGE
Hon. Carol M. Bealor

Estate of:
Pamela Ann Bolock
Date of birth: 07/02/1955

TO ALL CREDITORS: *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Pamela Ann Bolock, died 12/19/2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Cort Dean Bolock, personal representative, or to both the probate court at Law & Courts building, 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, MI 49031 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date 9/9/2025

Nathan A. Barnes P-80513
Attorney name Bar no.
4100 Edison Lakes Pkwy, Ste 100
Address
Mishawaka, IN 46545
City, state, zip
574-243-4100
Telephone

Cort Dean Bolock
Personal representative
69512 Anderson Rd
Address
Niles, MI 49120
City, state, zip
269-663-2923
Telephone

0900 LEGALS

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF CASS

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE AND CREDITORS NOTICE

FILE NO.
2025 – 0229 - DE

ESTATE OF: EUGENE EDWARD BELLA, **Deceased**
Date of Birth: February 23, 1947

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including creditors and heirs of the deceased whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

Be advised that a Petition for Determination of Heirs has been filed with the Court and a hearing on said Petition will be held on **TUESDAY, October 14, 2025, at 10:15 A.M.**, via Zoom teleconference. Please contact the attorney for the estate for further information.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The Decedent, EUGENE EDWARD BELLA, who lived at 1478 Elm Drive, Marcellus, Michigan 49067-9708, died July 24, 2025.

Creditors of the Decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Julie Moody, named personal representative, or to the probate court at 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031 and the named personal representative within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date September 27, 2025

Robert L. Landgraf, Jr.
Attorney
Post Office Box 1310
Niles, Michigan 49120-1310
(269)683-8300

Julie Moody
Petitioner
c/o Post Office Box 1310
Niles, Michigan 49120-1310
c/o (269)683-8300

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF Berrien

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE
2025-0568-DE-J
Hon. Paul S. Jancha

Estate of: Dawn Elizabeth O'Brien
Date of birth: 09/30/1960

TO ALL CREDITORS: *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Dawn Elizabeth O'Brien, died 06/01/2022. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Olivia O'Brien, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 811 Port St. St. Joseph, MI 49085 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date 09/22/2025

Heidi A. Duncan P76168
Attorney name Bar no.
107 Pennsylvania Ave
Address
Dowagiac, MI 49047
City, State, Zip
269-782-9895
Telephone no.

Olivia O'Brien
Personal representative
1336 Fairfield Drive
Address
Niles, MI 49120
City, state, zip
269-262-9815
Telephone

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF SELF-STORAGE SALE

Pursuant to Michigan law, specifically the Michigan Self-Service Storage Facility Act (MCL 570.521 et seq.), notice is hereby given that the contents of the following storage units will be sold at public auction to satisfy the owner's lien for unpaid rent and other charges. The auction will be held as follows: October 10th, 2025, starting at 1:00 PM. Located at Diamond Lake Self Storage at 22954 Diamond Cove Rd. Cassopolis, MI 49031. The units to be auctioned may include, but are not limited to, household items, furniture, tools, appliances, electronics, and other personal property. The following units are scheduled for auction: Units 4, 12, & 83 -Werne Ament and Irene Chelbana; Units 7 & 20 – Greg Horning, and Unit 59 – John Rewis. Terms of Sale: All items are sold as-is. Sale is subject to cancellation without notice in the event of settlement with the tenant.

Classifieds Make A Cash Connection!

PENN TOWNSHIP CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN
DIAMOND LAKE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (AQUATIC VEGETATION CONTROL) NOTICE OF OCTOBER 13, 2025 PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PENN, CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN; OWNERS OF ALL LOTS/PARCELS WITH FRONTAGE TO DIAMOND LAKE; AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE the Assessing Officer of Penn Township has reported to the Township Board and filed in the office of the Township Clerk for public examination a proposed special assessment roll / special assessment column in the regular tax roll pertaining to the 2025 Diamond Lake Improvement Project Special Assessment District (Aquatic Vegetation Control) created by the Township Board at a public hearing / meeting on September 8, 2025.

The proposed special assessment roll in the Township proposes to allocate the Township's portion of the costs of a five-year aquatic vegetation control program (2026-2030) in the approximate total amount of$29,636.00 over the five-year program to the lake lots within the district. The amount proposed to be assessed against each lake lot in the district is $62.00 per lake lot and $31.00 per back lot on Diamond Lake.

Because the costs for the aquatic vegetation control program may vary from year to year based on the effectiveness of the prior year's treatment program, and other variables, a redetermination of costs may be necessary on an annual basis, without change in the special assessment district boundaries. The annual assessments for years 2026-2030 are therefore subject to redetermination by the Township Board on a yearly basis when the actual costs of the yearly treatment and any related administrative costs are known. Any such annual redetermination as may be necessary will be made by October or November of 2026-2030 without further public hearing or notice, except as may be required by law or as may be further determined by the Township Board; providing that in any such instance the allocation of individual special assessments resulting from an annual redetermination shall be based on the same proportional allocation of costs used for the initial assessment of $62.00 for lake front lots and $31.00 for back lots.

A public hearing on any objections to the proposed special assessment roll in the township will be held at the Penn Township Hall, located at 60717 South Main Street, Vandalia, Michigan in conjunction with the regular board meeting of the township on Monday, October 13, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

The proposed special assessment roll (and the current project plans, estimate of costs, the Special Assessment District boundaries and the resolution of the Township Board creating the Special Assessment District and directing the Assessing Officer of the Township to make the proposed special assessment roll) may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk and may further be examined at the public hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT APPEARANCE AND PROTEST AT THIS HEARING IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO APPEAL THE AMOUNT OF A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT TO THE MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL. AN OWNER OR PARTY IN INTEREST OR HIS OR HER AGENT MAY APPEAR IN PERSON AT THE HEARING TO PROTEST A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT, OR MAY FILE AN APPEARANCE OR PROTEST BY LETTER WITH THE TOWNSHIP CLERK BEFORE THE CLOSE OF AND IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES A PERSONAL APPEARANCE AT THE HEARING SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED. THE OWNER OR ANY PERSON HAVING AN INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY WHO PROTESTS IN PERSON OR IN WRITING AS PROVIDED ABOVE MAY FILE A WRITTEN APPEAL OF A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT WITH THE MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL WITHIN 35 DAYS AFTER THE CONFIRMATION OF THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL.

The hearing, and all proceedings associated with these special assessment matters will be conducted in accordance with and pursuant to 1954 PA 188, as amended, the Michigan Open Meetings Act, and any other applicable law.

Rhonda Barnett, Penn Township Clerk

NOTICE OF ELECTION, REGISTRATION & PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST FOR SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025, LAGRANGE and WAYNE TOWNSHIPS CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF LAGRANGE and WAYNE TOWNSHIP:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any qualified elector of LaGrange and Wayne Townships who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the Township Clerk; the office of the County Clerk; a Secretary of State branch office; or other designated state agency. Registration forms can be obtained at mi.gov/vote and mailed to the Township Clerk. Voters who are already registered may update their registration at www.expressSOS.com.

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk is **Tuesday, October 20, 2025.**

After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.497) at the Township Clerk's office, located at and during the following times:

LaGrange Township	Wayne Township
58253 M-62	53950 Glenwood Rd.
Cassopolis, MI 49031	Dowagiac MI 49047
(269) 233-4004	(269) 782-7017
Saturday, Nov.1st 8am-4pm	Sat, November 1st 8am-4am
By appointment	By appointment

And Election Day, Tuesday, November 4th from 7:00 am-8:00 pm at the LaGrange and Wayne Township Clerk's Offices.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that LaGrange and Wayne Township electors will be voting on the following:

MEDICAL CARE FACILITY
County of Cass Medical Care Facility Millage Renewal .4881mills for 10 years.

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the Cass County Clerk's Office, 120 N. Broadway, Cassopolis MI 49031; Telephone (269) 445-4464.

DOWAGIAC SCHOOLS
DOWAGIAC UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT SINKING FUND MILLAGE PROPOSAL .5 MILL FOR 10 YEARS

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the administrative offices of Dowagiac Union School District, 243 S. Front Street, Dowagiac, Michigan 49047-1738, telephone: (269)782-4400

Full text of the ballot proposal may be obtained at the Township Clerk's Office listed above. A sample ballot may be viewed at mi.gov/vote.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL ELECTIONS; REGISTERED VOTERS MAY CONTACT THE TOWNSHIP CLERK TO OBTAIN AN APPLICATION FOR AN ABSENT VOTER BALLOT BY CALLING THE TOWNSHIP OFFICES.

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF LAGRANGE AND WAYNE TOWNSHIPS, CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Accuracy Test for the November 4, 2025, Special Election will be conducted for the above Townships on the following dates and locations:

LaGrange Township	**Wayne Township**
LaGrange Township Hall	Wayne Township Hall
58253 M-62 Cassopolis, MI 53950	Glenwood Rd Dowagiac, MI
October 21, 2025, at 11am	October 21, 2025, at 2pm

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the program and computer used to tabulate the results of the November 4, 2025, Special Election have been prepared in accordance with the law.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodation should contact the clerk's office.

Tasha McCoy	Kurt Reich
LaGrange Twp Clerk	Wayne Twp Clerk
(269) 233-4004	(269) 782-7017
clerk@lagrangetownshipmi.com	waynetownshipclerk@gmail.com

People Do Read Small Ads. You Did!

CALVIN TOWNSHIP CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF CALVIN TOWNSHIP, CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Calvin Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a meeting and public hearing on, **October 20, 2025,** commencing at **7:00 P.M**. at the Calvin Township Hall, 18727 Mt. Zion St. Cassopolis, Mi. 49031 to consider the following:

1. Request from Anthony and Julie Cook 51678 Meadow Pointe Granger, In. 46530 are requesting variances for the properties located at 62076 Carlton Ave. a/k/a parcel ID # 14-010-006-078-00 and 14-010-006-086-00 for the following**: a.** Variance from Section 307.4 (D) (2) for side yard (left side) setback as it relates to a principal dwelling **b.** Variance from Section 307.4 (D) (2) for side yard (right side) setback as it relates to a principal dwelling **c.** Variance from Section 307.4 (C) as it relates to the overall lot coverage for a principal dwelling. **d.** Variance from Section 307.4 (D) (1) (B) as it relates to a front yard setback for an accessory structure. **e.** Variance from Section 403.3 (D) as it relates to the rear yard setback for an accessory structure. **f.** Variance from Section 403.3 (D) (5) as it relates to the overall lot coverage for an accessory structure. **g.** Variance from Section 403.3 (7) Variance as it relates to an accessory structure without a principal dwelling on the parcel. **PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that copies of the Township Zoning Ordinance, the application, and the decision of the zoning administrator will be available at the hearing or may be viewed or purchased prior to the hearing by contacting the Township Clerk, Michelle Anderson at 269-476-2620, or the Township Zoning Administrator, Douglas Kuhlman at 269-651-3130. **PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that the Calvin Township Zoning Board of Appeals will address any business or agenda items presented. **PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that public comment regarding this request will be received in writing at the address below: may be presented to the Zoning Board of Appeals at the meeting, or may be directed to the Zoning Board of Appeals care of the Zoning Administrator Douglas Kuhlman by contacting him at 269-651-3130.Written comments concerning the above matter may be submitted to the Calvin Township Zoning Administrator at any time prior to the public hearing and may further be submitted to the Township Zoning Administrator at the public hearing. **PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that the Calvin Township Zoning Board of Appeals may reverse or uphold the decision of the Calvin Township Zoning Administrator and may grant or deny a variance or grant a variance with conditions. **PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** Calvin Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the hearing to individuals with disabilities, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered, upon seventy-two (72) notice to the Township Clerk of the need for the same.

Calvin Township
Douglas Kuhlman, Zoning Administrator
65656 Burg Rd. Sturgis, Mi. 49091 Phone no. 269-651-313

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, Michigan starting promptly at 10:00 a.m. on November 5, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Mortgage (the "Mortgage") made by Patrick J. Brodzinski, a single man, as Mortgagor to First Federal Savings Bank, with its address at 301 East Ninth Street, Rochester, IN, 46975-0527 as Mortgagee, dated February 13, 2009, and recorded February 24, 2009, Liber 989, Page 2381, Cass County Records, Cass County, Michigan. The balance owing on the Mortgage is $47,662.36 at the time of this Notice. The Mortgage contains a power of sale and no suit or proceeding at law or in equity has been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, or any part of the Mortgage. TAKE NOTICE that on Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. local time, or any adjourned date thereafter, the Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale at public auction to the highest bidder, at the Cass County Courthouse located at 60296 M 62, Cassopolis, Michigan. The Mortgagee will apply the sale proceeds to the debt secured by the Mortgage as stated above, plus interest on the amount due at the fixed rate of 5%per annum; all legal costs and expenses, including attorney fees allowed by law; and also any amount paid by the Mortgagee to protect its interest in the property. The property to be sold at foreclosure is all of that real estate situated in Milton Township, County of Cass, State of Michigan, described as: LOT NUMBERED FIVE (5), DUNNING ACRES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 16 OF PLATS, PAGE 333, CASS COUNTY RECORDS. PATRICK J. BRODZINSKI AND PATRICK JOHN BRODZINSKI ARE ONE AND THE SAME PERSON. Parcel No. 14-070-300-005-00 Commonly known address: 29154 E. US 12, Niles, Michigan 49120 The redemption period shall be one (1) year from the date of sale pursuant to MCLA 600.3240(12), unless deemed abandoned and then pursuant to the time frames provided for in MCL 600.3241a. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. September 15, 2025 First Federal Savings Bank PLUNKETT COONEY KELLI L. BAKER (P49960) Attorney for Mortgagee 333 Bridge Street NW, Suite 530 Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504 (616) 752-4624 (09-27)(10-25)

FORECLOSURE NOTICE (ALL COUNTIES) AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement – Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM a.m./p.m. on October 22, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default having been made in the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage made by Samuel L. Butler and Brenda Butler of Cass County, Michigan, Mortgagor to Fifth Third Bank (Western Michigan) dated the 7th day of February, 2005, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds, for the County of Cass and State of Michigan, on the 4th day of March, 2005, Liber 00905, Page 0596, of the Cass County Records on which mortgage there is claimed to be due, at the date of this notice, for principal of $127,657.11 plus accrued interest at 8.00000% percent per annum. Which said premises are described as follows: All that certain piece or parcel of land situated in the Township of Volinia, in the County of Cass and State of Michigan and described as follows to wit: Part of the Northwest fractional Quarter of Section 19, Town 5 South, Range 14 West, described as commencing at the North Quarter post of said Section; thence West along the North line of said Section 493.66 feet to the Point of Beginning of the land herein described; thence South at right angles to the North line, 600.00 feet; thence West parallel with the North line of said Section, +/- 160 feet to the West line of the East half of the Northeast Quarter of said Northwest Quarter; thence Northerly along said West line +/- 600 feet to the North line of said Section 19; thence East along said North line, 160.00 feet to the Place of Beginning. ALSO, the East half of the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 19, Town 5 South, Range 14 West. More correctly described as: The East half of the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 19, Town 5 South, Range 14 West. Commonly known as: 21515 Crane Street, Dowagiac, MI 49047 Tax ID: 14-140-019-007-02 and 14-140-019-007-11 If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale the borrower, pursuant to MCLA 600.3278 will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. Dated: September 20, 2025, By: Benjamin N. Hoen #P-81415 Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., L.P.A. 5990 West Creek Road, Suite 200 Independence, OH 44131 Telephone: 216-739-5100 Fax: 216-363-4034 Email: bhoen@weltman.com WWR# 25-000793-1 (09-20)(10-11)

0900 LEGALS

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
CITY OF NILES, MICHIGAN
DEMOLITION OF A RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE INCLUDING ASBESTOS ABATEMENT (241 N State St.)

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Niles, Michigan in the City Hall office of the City Clerk until Thursday, October 16th, 2025, at 10:00am Local Time, at which time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud for the demolition project.

The proposal and contract forms as well as the plans and specifications under which the work will be done are on file and may be examined at the Department of Community Development, City Hall, 333 N. Second St, Niles, Michigan 49120, (269) 683-4700, ext. 3020. Copies thereof may be obtained from the Department of Community Development.

All bidders are required to sign a certification that they will comply with all Federal and State non- discrimination laws and regulations.

The successful bidder will be required to furnish satisfactory performance bond as well as labor and material bond.

A certified check or bidder's bond in an amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the amount of the proposal will be required with each proposal.

The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive irregularities in proposals and to accept the proposal, which in the opinion of the City Council is most advantageous to the City.

No bid shall be withdrawn after the opening of bids for a period of thirty (30) days after the scheduled time of receiving bids.

CITY OF NILES
Sanya Vitale
CDBG Coordinator

GET MORE LOCAL NEWS, DELIVERED RIGHT TO YOU!

GIVE US A CALL AND SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

0900 LEGALS

CITY OF BUCHANAN
CITY COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Commission of the City of Buchanan, Berrien County, State of Michigan, will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 13th, 2025, at Buchanan City Hall, 302 N. Redbud Trail, Buchanan, Michigan. The purpose of the public hearing is to hear public comments on a proposed Ordinance 2025.11/444 Unified Development Code, also referred to as the Zoning Ordinance. The proposed zoning ordinance to establish zoning districts and land use regulations governing the City of Buchanan, Berrien County, Michigan; to provide for regulations governing nonconforming uses and structurers; to provide for a Zoning Board of Appeals and its duties and powers; to provide for the administration of this Ordinance including the official whose duty it shall be to enforce the provisions thereof; to provide penalties for the violations of this Ordinance; and to provide for conflicts with other ordinances or regulations.

The proposed Ordinance can be found on our website, cityofbuchanan.com, or a copy can be obtained at City Hall 302 N. Redbud Trail, Buchanan, MI 49107.

If you cannot attend the public hearing, written comments can be sent to Buchanan City Hall, 302 N. Redbud Trail, Buchanan, Michigan 49107, or emailed to City Clerk Kalla Langston at Clerk@cityofbuchanan.com and must be received by noon on Monday, October 13th, 2025.

Kalla Langston, City Clerk

Howard Township
Cass County, Michigan
Board of Trustees
September 16, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m at the Township Hall.

Board Action
Approved Meeting Agenda.
Approved the minutes of the 08/19/25 Board Meeting
Approved the financial report with an ending balance of 1,672,552.74 including a CD
Approved the payment of bills through September 16, 2025
Approved the departmental reports
Correspondence two letters were read
Requested Snowplow bids for 25-26
Tabled Ordinance #235
Tabled Resolution #2025-008
Approved Quotes for Demo blight Properties
Public Comment occurred
Adjourn the meeting at 8:16 pm

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White Space Sells

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is given under Section 3212 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Circuit Court in Cass County, Law and Courts Building 60296 M-62 Cassopolis, MI 49031 starting promptly at **10:00 a.m., Wednesday October 22, 2025.** The amount due on the Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a Mortgage by Dale A. Wetzel, the original mortgagor, to Honor Credit Union, Mortgagee, dated July 21, 2023, and recorded on August 04, 2023, in Liber 1235 on Page 1550, in Cass County, Michigan Records, on which Mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of $55,896.81, including interest at 7.25% per annum. Said premises is situated in the County of Cass, State of Michigan, and described as:

Real Estate Located in the Township of Pokagon, County of Cass, State of Michigan and described as:
Lot Three (3), and the West One- Half of Lot Two (2), Block Eleven (11), Village of Summerville, Pokagon Township, Cass County, Michigan, according to the Plat
thereof, recorded at Liber A of Mortgages, Page 190, on August 22, 1836.
TAX ID: 14-110-140-113-00
Commonly known as: 33037 Pokagon Hwy, Niles, Michigan 49120

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this Notice.

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Date: September 16, 2025

For more information, please call:
HONOR CREDIT UNION
Mark D. Hofstee (P66001)
Bolhouse, Hofstee & McLean, P.C.
Grandville State Bank Building
3996 Chicago Dr SW, Grandville MI 49418-1384

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION FOR THE SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025, JEFFERSON, PENN & CALVIN TOWNSHIPS CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF JEFFERSON, PENN & CALVIN TOWNSHIPS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any qualified elector of Jefferson, Penn & Calvin Townships who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the Township Clerk; the office of the County Clerk; a Secretary of State branch office; or other designated state agency. Registration forms can be obtained at mi.gov/vote and mailed to the Township Clerk. Voters who are already registered may update their registration at www.expressSOS.com.

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk is **Monday, October 20, 2025.**

After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.497) at the Township Clerk's office, located at and during the following times:

Jefferson Township Hall	Penn Township Hall	Calvin Township Hall
24725 Jefferson Center St	60717 S. Main St	18727 Mt Zion St
Cassopolis, MI 49031	Vandalia, MI 49095	Cassopolis, MI 49031
Tuesdays 9:00am – 1:00pm	Saturday, November 1st	Saturday, November 1st
Saturday, November 1st	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	7:30 am – 3:30 pm
8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Sunday, November 2nd	
	3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	

And Election Day, Tuesday, November 4th from 7:00 am-8:00 pm at the Jefferson, Penn, or Calvin Township Clerk's Office.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT Jefferson, Penn, and Calvin Township residents will be voting on the following ballot proposal listed below:

MEDICAL CARE FACILITY
County of Cass Medical Care Facility Millage Renewal .4881mills for 10 years.

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the Cass County Clerk's Office, 120 N. Broadway, Cassopolis MI 49031; Telephone (269) 445-4464.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST FOR THE ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT THAT WILL BE USED IN THE PRECINCT FOR THE NOVEMBER 4, 2025, SPECIAL ELECTION IN JEFFERSON, PENN & CALVIN TOWNSHIPS IS SCHEDULED FOR THE FOLLOWING DATES AND TIMES:

Jefferson Township Hall	Penn Township Hall	Calvin Township Hall
24725 Jefferson Center St	60717 S. Main St	18727 Mt Zion St
Cassopolis, MI 49031	Vandalia, MI 49095	Cassopolis, MI 49031
October 14, 2025, 9:00 am	October 30, 2025, 6:30 pm	October 3, 2025, 4:00 pm

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the programming of the electronic equipment used to tabulate the votes cast at the election meet the requirements of Michigan Election Law.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodation should contact the clerk's office.

Jennifer Brunner	Rhonda Barnett	Michelle Anderson
Jefferson Twp Clerk	Penn Twp	Clerk Calvin Twp Clerk
(269) 445-3941	(269) 816-5165	(269) 476-2620

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OUTDOORS

Photos by Ryan Yuenger / HP correspondent

A view of a disc golf hole at Hudson Mills Metropark in Dexter, Mich.

Take a disc golf hike

Before I moved to St. Joseph in 2018, I considered myself a disc golf enthusiast.

As a broke college student, it found it was a rare activity that combined three of my favorite hobbies – hiking, playing sports and not spending money.

Ryan Yuenger

I grew up playing stick golf – or ball golf – with my dad. I always loved both the challenge of the game and the beautiful locations of courses. The only issue – he was always paying for the round. Without the desire to spend that kind of money, I was left searching for another fun, challenging outdoor sport to play. Eventually, I bought my first disc for $10 and soon fell in love with the game in the same way.

Only with disc golf, it felt like there were hardly any stakes. It's usually free to play, and the people playing are much more casual than your average stick-golfer. Groups of friends would often treat the disc golf course like a friendly hangout, congregating around picnic tables throughout the course during a casual round.

At worst, it was an afternoon spent romping with my friends through the woods looking for errant disc throws. At best, it was a sport I started to get serious about trying to improve at.

But that all stopped when I moved to the beach.

For more than seven years, my Professional Disc Golf Association-branded bag of discs collected dust in my closet, occasionally pleading with me from behind old hiking gear. I never intended to stop playing, but the allure of sand dunes and Lake Michigan sunsets made that part of my life fade into the horizon.

A disc golf pin is seen from a concrete tee pad at Hudson Mills.

A disc golf target – also known as the "basket" or "chains" – sits at the end of a manicured hole at Hudson Mills Metropark in Dexter, Mich.

When I worked in Niles at Leader Publications, I would drive by Andrews University on my commute and see a part of their course near the road. I was always intrigued, but never motivated enough to play a round.

So, my discs continued to collect dust – until this summer, when I returned to my childhood home in Dexter for an extended stay with my parents while I had the floors replaced at my St. Joseph house.

Less than two miles from my parents' house is Hudson Mills Metropark – a well-known southeast Michigan disc golf destination boasting 48 holes and a championship course which hosts an annual PDGA event.

My older brother used to play there in high school, and my mom once thought it would be a good idea for me to tag along. Allegedly, my brother cautioned against that, citing potential "bad influences."

I later learned the disc golf course is a popular place for pot-smoking youths to congregate. Surely no place for an impressionable younger brother.

Regardless, I found my own way there years later as a college student fully engulfed in disc golf culture. I would take trips back home some weekends just to play Hudson Mills, which remains to this day one of the most scenic, well-manicured and beautiful courses I've ever played.

If only I had known all those years of living there. Oh well.

Long story slightly less long: I finally dusted off my discs and played Hudson Mills a few weeks ago, and it re-ignited my love for the game.

Now that I'm settled back in my house here in St. Joseph, I plan on getting out to play locally a lot more, and possibly do some course reviews for this column. A quick search on udisc.com shows there are a handful of courses in Berrien County, but even more in the surrounding area.

Anyone familiar with the disc golf scene in Michiana or southwest Michigan, please reach out to let me know where I should play. I look forward to getting out there in coming weeks, and then reporting back.

Ryan Yuenger is an HP correspondent. Contact him at ryuenger@thehp.com.

Sarett Nature Center

Sarett Nature Stewards: 2-4 p.m. each Wednesday. This program is a way to experience Sarett in a whole different way. By being a nature steward you are helping Sarett but you also gain a sense of well-being. Sarett's crew will teach you many different skills such as collecting viable seeds for future planting, how to identify invasive species from native ones, removing invasive plants, and more. For ages 10 and older.

Stream surveying: 1-3 p.m. Sept. 28. Stream surveys are a great way to learn the health of our waterways. The more weird insects you find the better the health! Come learn stream survey protocol and find some cool macroinvertebrates while you're at it! Be prepared to get wet and muddy. Old tennis shoes, muck boots or waders are recommended. This program is free to all. Call 269-927-4832 to register.

Warren Dunes State Park

Volunteer Stewardship Workday: 10 a.m.-noon Sept. 27. Meet at the second roadside parking lot on the way to the beach. Celebrate National Public Lands Day by helping keep our critical dunes free of invasive plants. Volunteers will help remove privet, barberry, and non-native honeysuckle from the park. No experience is necessary; volunteers will be trained to identify target species, and all equipment will be provided.

Email info for Get Outdoors to sports@TheHP.com, or call 429-1294 by Wednesday.

Submitting hunting or fishing photos

Have a behemoth buck, a tremendous turkey or super-sized salmon?

Please submit photos to sports@TheHP.com.

Your photo must be in focus, all persons in the photo must be identified, and the general location of the hunt must be provided (for example, 10-point buck shot in Benton Township, black bear shot near Munising, Mich., etc.)

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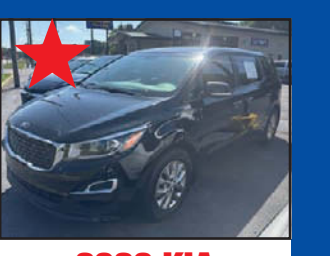

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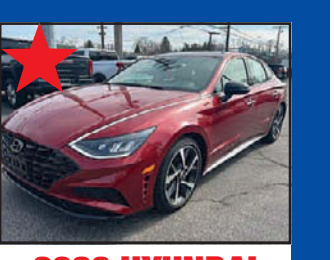

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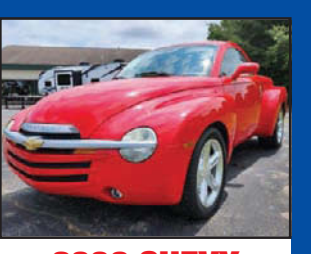

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